

**WEDNESDAY**

**REGULAR MEETING  
7:00 P.M.**

**MARCH 7, 2012**

This Regular Meeting of Council was called to order on the above-stated date at the above-stated time after the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence by President of Council Darryl Segina with the following Members of Council were present:

**RC-1      PRESENT:      DARRYL SEGINA, DALE McCALL, V.  
FAWN WALKER-MONTGOMERY,  
ALFRED TEDESCO, JR., KEITH SOLES,  
RICHARD DELLAPENNA, DANIEL CARR**

Captain Sean Barton from the Salvation Army led the prayer.

Mr. Segina said he would like to have a moment of silence for Edwin Coulter who did such a service for the City of McKeesport to make them all proud. He said Ed did a lot of diligent work for the City. He said they are going to miss him because he was a character for one thing and he was always around City Hall and of course the Ambulance Authority and basically founded M.A.R.S. He said it was going downhill and they almost lost it and Ed came in and took over the reins at no charge whatsoever. He said they never paid Ed for anything except just recently and then they underpaid him. He said let us please have a moment of silence for Ed.

Also present were Mayor Michael Cherepko, City Administrator Matthew Gergely, City Solicitor J. Jason Elash and members of the Administration.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:**      **Mr. McCall moved, seconded by Mr. Tedesco,  
"To approve the minutes for the Regular  
Meeting of Council on February 1, 2012."**

**RC-2**      YEAS:      SEGINA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY,  
TEDESCO, SOLES, DELLAPENNA, CARR ..... 7

NAYS:      NONE..... 0

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Received a letter from Raymond Malinchak, City Controller, RE: Request to Resolve Encumbrances on City Hall Real Estate.
- Received a copy of a letter sent by Regis McLaughlin to Harry Walsh, Chairman of the Redevelopment Authority resigning as a member of the Board of the Redevelopment Authority of the City of McKeesport.
  - Mr. Segina said he would like to comment on that. He said Rege has served this City very well for a number of years and they certainly miss him being around City Hall and would like to wish him in his next endeavor. He said he is sure he has McKeesport at heart.
- Received a copy of a letter sent by Regis McLaughlin to Nickolas Shermenti, Chairman of the Municipal Authority of the City of McKeesport, resigning as a member of the Board of the Municipal Authority.
  - Mr. Segina said he would like to say "ditto."

- Received the Monthly Report from Fire Chief Kevin Lust, Public Works Director Nick Shermenti and Police Chief Bryan Washowich.
- Received an invitation to the Twin Rivers Council of Governments to attend their 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly Membership Meeting on Thursday, March 22, 2012, at the Georgetown Centre in Pleasant Hills. Anyone who would like to go please let Ms. Williams know so she can get the reservations in.
- Received an invitation from the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities to attend the Southwest Spring District Meeting on Tuesday, April 17 at the Nest Restaurant in Jeannette. Please let Ms. Williams know if anyone wants to go.
- Received a letter from Dennis Pittman, Board Chairman of the McKeesport Industrial Development Authority, RE: Reappointment of Board Member. The Board would like to acknowledge the fine service of member Robert Wise whose term expired December 31, 2011. Mr. Wise has expressed that he would no longer be able to serve in that capacity and they are asking for someone to fill that position.
  - Mr. Segina said does the Mayor have anyone that he would like to place in this position.
  - Mayor Cherepko said he has a couple of appointments he would like to make and he can wait until the end of his report.
  - Mr. Segina said he could do it while they are on this particular subject.
  - Mayor Cherepko said he believes the name that was submitted and recommended was Maury Burgwin. He said that is the name that he is submitting.

- Mr. Segina said that Maury Burgwin for everyone's information is Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce in McKeesport. He said he is well known in the area and is working very hard for the benefit of all. He said he would like a motion for that effect for the Mayor to appoint Maury Burgwin to the MIDA Board.

**MOTION:      Mr. Tedesco moved, seconded by Mr. Dellapenna, "To appoint Maury Burgwin to the McKeesport Industrial Development Authority."**

**RC-3**      YEAS:      SEGINA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY,  
TEDESCO, SOLES, DELLAPENNA, CARR ..... 7

NAYS:      NONE..... 0

- Received a copy of a letter from Nickolas Shermenti, Chairman of the Municipal Authority of the City of McKeesport, "As you are aware, Regis McLaughlin submitted his letter of resignation to the Authority Board effective February 28. The Authority would greatly appreciate a reappointment be made as soon as possible so that we may continue our functions with a full five member Board."
  - Mr. Segina said that the Mayor can do that in his report.
- Received a letter from Linda Brewster, President of the McKeesport Trail Commission. There is a vacancy on the McKeesport Trail Commission formerly held by previous Councilman and Mayor Regis McLaughlin. The Commission by-laws state that McKeesport City Council representation is required. They are recommending Dan Carr to fill that position.
  - Mr. Segina said would Dan Carr like to represent Council on that Commission.
  - Mr. Carr said yes he would.

- Mr. Segina said he needs a motion to approve Mr. Carr for the Trail Commission.

**MOTION:**      **Mr. McCall moved, seconded by Ms. Walker-Montgomery, "To appoint Dan Carr as Council representative to the McKeesport Trail Commission."**

**RC-4**      YEAS:      SEGINA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY,  
TEDESCO, SOLES, DELLAPENNA, CARR ..... 7

NAYS:      NONE..... 0

- Received a letter from Dr. Fred Ralston, Jr. of the Allegheny County Economic Development Department, RE: Memorandum for Record.
- Received a letter from John D. Finnegan, Attorney, RE: Dennis K.E. Pittman, Employee Benefits.
  - Mr. Segina said he discussed that this morning with Mayor Cherepko and this will be resolved.
  - Mr. McCall said does he need a motion for that.
  - Mr. Segina said it doesn't require a motion but if they want a motion, then they won't know what they are talking about.
  - Mayor Cherepko said basically as with any of their employees, when they go as with past practice, they have sick days and vacation time and because it was not budgeted for but they just thought it would be appropriate to bring up to Council. He said as Mr. Segina said, he talked to him about it and it is a number not to exceed somewhere close to \$24,000. He said it is under that. He said they don't have the number with them right now.
  - Mr. Segina said it seems like the only problem then is where do they find the money. He said then let's have

a motion to let the Mayor and the Administrator go ahead and resolve this as quickly as possible.

**MOTION: Mr. McCall moved, seconded by Mr. Soles, "To allow the Mayor and Administration to pay Dennis Pittman his buy-back not to exceed \$24,000."**

**RC-5** YEAS: SEGINA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY, TEDESCO, SOLES, DELLAPENNA, CARR ..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

- Mr. Segina said will the Mayor please contact Mr. Finnegan and let him know what he is doing so that they have no anxiety about this and that they are proceeding as quickly as possible to remedy this.
- Mayor Cherepko said they will make that phone call tomorrow.
- Received from Councilwoman V. Fawn Walker-Montgomery, "I, V. Fawn Walker-Montgomery, hereby acknowledge that there is a potential for a conflict of interest when voting on interest when voting on any issues that directly affect the Carnegie Library of McKeesport due to me serving as a Board member. Therefore, I will abstain from voting on any resolutions or ordinances that solely directly involve Carnegie Library of McKeesport and also for the First Step Recovery Homes."
- Mr. Segina said in this particular matter they can keep this on record in the file. He said what happens is that when they do take a vote, Ms. Montgomery, she will abstain and then will give the reason for her abstention and they will have that on record. He said that is the proper way to do it.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Mayor Cherepko said he would like to reiterate what Mr. Segina said that the passing of Mr. Coulter ... he has provided the City with a service over the past few decades at no cost to the City just for the mere fact of his love for the City. He said just this past year they did begin compensating him and even then he was underpaid. He said as Mr. Segina mentioned he brought the Ambulance base back when they almost lost it and he also served as the Emergency Management Coordinator. He said Mr. Coulter was in charge of all of the disasters that occurred over the years whether they were blizzards, hurricanes ... Hurricane Ivan ... hundreds of thousands of dollars that he put his exhaustive efforts toward to make sure the City got every dollar available. He said he truly lost a great friend and a mentor when he passed. He said he offers his deepest sympathy to the family and hopes they all keep them in their prayers.
- Mayor Cherepko said on another note unfortunately there was an article written in the Post Gazette a few weeks ago and he knows that Mr. Segina and he talk about these types of things all the time. He said he is tired of talking about the past. He said he is tired of talking about the same issues or hearing about the same issues. He said there are certain individuals continue to thrive on this negativity that does nothing but tear down this City. He said he woke up first thing in the morning that Thursday, checked the South section of the paper, saw the article, and he can't even begin to tell them how irate he was. He said he felt like an angry pit bull protecting the house at that point because this is our City and at some point the negativity has to stop. He said he wants to clarify some things said in this article. He said, in fact, practically the entire article is totally inaccurate and an absolute fallacy for that matter. He said why it ever was printed he can't even imagine ... why this would be printed without someone showing the facts. He said for one, the

bond issue that was done by the Municipal Authority, not by the City of McKeesport to prepay debt that was owed to the City ... they had no choice in that matter ... the money was coming. He said as the article went on to say that they lost over \$1 million on this deal. He said before he goes any further to clarify the facts, let's make something very, very clear because it was a promise he made in his campaign and he promise to keep that. He said if the City were to take a loss over the next 20 or 30 years ... it is never what they want for the City, the one thing he can assure them ... if they were, it would be something he would have considered and the reason why he would considered it if he the choice, but keep in mind they had no choice in this matter, was because what this did was it was an absolute home run for the Sewage Authority and the City alike which they will see later. He said with that being said, he wants them to know that he has made that promise to the taxpayers of this City. He said one of the biggest complaints that he has gotten on the campaign trail was the sewage bills. He said if they can help the sewage authority, which is an entity underneath the City, to be in a strong financial situation, it is going to assure or at least help that these sewage fees do not increase any further, then he would be in full support of that. He said with that being said he wants to clarify this. He said the City did not lose money on this investment whatsoever. He said as a matter of fact, the net savings of this savings, to the penny over the term of these bonds would have been \$1,776,884.39. He said that would have been the net savings. He said that number is the difference between the payments that the Municipal Authority payments that would have been made to the City and what they would have actually paid to the Bond Company. He said there was a cash flow savings of \$794,809.38. He said where they came up with the balance of that number would have been the insurance premium savings that they had by not paying the insurance on the bond that was no longer there. He said that premium payment was \$982,075.00. He said in all, the City saved \$1, 776,884.39. He said now that is only part of it, it



even goes further than that. He said a part of it was not explained when these numbers were talked about. He said now keep in mind, the part he is telling now is just in addition to these numbers. He said the City had a \$31 million debt, rough numbers on that, it is not to the penny. He said put themselves in this situation where they have a debt and they are paying almost six percent interest on their debt, have someone that owes them money ... and in this case it was the Municipal Authority, who is paying them four percent interest. He said he believes where their calculation came up to the \$1 million loss was that they were getting four percent interest. He said if they lose that interest over those years it would add up to be over \$1 million. He said the other half of the equation though was not told. He said there was a debt there that they were paying almost six percent on. He said when the money came from the Municipal Authority, and that is correct they were not getting four percent on that money anymore, but what they did was they paid off the debt for the equal amount of money so they now ... they were not receiving the four percent but they were not paying the six percent but they were losing money all along even with the four percent. He said a slight loss, not technically losing but they had a debt that they had to satisfy. He said the question has come up over and over from the same individual was why not keep the \$14 million that they have. He said that is as simple and can be. He said what they are forgetting is that when they got that \$14 million that they had allocated to pay off further debt, if they were to put that in the bank and draw minimal interest what they forget is that they were receiving over \$2.2 to \$2.5 million per year from the Sewage Authority. He said now they had that gap in the budget. He said four or five years from now if they had kept that money and utilized that money to fill that gap, four or five years from now the City would be out of business, Act 47. He said as some individuals have encouraged them to do for years now. He said that is not an option under his administration. He said he wants to make that very clear. He said they will not go to

Act 47, which is Municipal Bankruptcy for those who are not aware. He said decreasing their debt from \$31 million to \$12 million put them in a much better situation to issue debt in the future. He said it put them in better ratings, which could be significant savings if they were to have to do a bond issue in the future and issue the debt to the City. He said not only did they save the dollar amount that they said but they put them in a much better financial situation for the future of this City. He said he takes offense to it and he has to be quite honest with them. He said this was a home run for the City and obviously for the Municipal Authority. He said even though they didn't have the option as a City. He said what they did was took a situation and made the best of it. He said last month our Controller made a big spectacle about money that was lost because it was sitting in an interest free account. He said Mr. Malinchak was absolutely correct on that. He said they lost money over six months. He said once again a half story. He said the reason why they lost that money was because their prior Administration along with Mr. Malinchak's support, would not sign the agreement to get the investment done. He said they voted as Council in August to make this investment. He said it did not get done in September and they talked about it. He said it didn't get done in October, November and it just continued to sit there. He said in December they made a final motion for them to sign the paper and get it done. He said it never got done. He said just to explain and demonstrate just how quickly the investment would have been made, from the day he signed it when he took office, it went into an interest bearing account immediately and within three weeks the money was totally invested and allocated on behalf of the City of McKeesport and which PFM put bids out and went with the investment that would yield the best interest for the City. He said he can't answer the question for sure of why this money was not invested but he does know that these same individuals had an investment plan of their own and it would have yielded better interest no question but the problem with it was when they did the bond issue and because that money was

allocated to pay off bonds, they were very limited in what they could invest in. He said investing in mortgage securities with City money is not something he would want to do anyway let alone the fact that the Third Class City Code was very clear in that it said that it was not an investment option for the City. He said when they did invest the money; it had to be in Treasury Bills and Treasury Notes. He said that was the only option they had. He said the same company that they were looking to invest with, later had a conversation with Bond Counsel and this company acknowledged that their investment would not have been an appropriate investment. He said they even came back with a counter investment of their own that would have been within the guidelines of the legal limits of the City. He said this Council, as difficult a decision as it was, he wants each and every one of them to know that the decision that was made was a good decision. He said keep in mind that their hands throughout all of this were tied. He said they are running into a lot of other issues too. He said he really can't figure out why their Controller continues to be negative, continues to embarrass this City, continues to reach that goal of Act 47 and why he doesn't know. He said this City has done many things. He said they are constantly doing investigations ... the controller, unauthorized investigations, investigating this and investigating that. He said following up and trying to get this to hit the press and trying to be negative and trying to find negative results. He said he finds that extremely hypocritical. He said if they have an investigation to do, he doesn't want to do any investigations right now. He said he doesn't want to do any investigations right now, he wants to make that very clear right now. He said he thinks it is a waste of time and taxpayer's money. He said if they were, this City was looking for a new source of revenue to generate for the City. He said he is sure a lot of them have heard of drilling and of the wells and gas. He said the gas industry is what many say is the modern day gold mine. The state of Pennsylvania is estimated to have trillions of dollars in gas. He said not only do they have Marcellus Shale gas but they

now have Utica below the Marcellus Shale. He said that is in addition to the surface wells. He said they looked into getting gas wells and to doing surface drilling. He said they looked into properties, 23 acres, to which their former Mayor had a vision to try to develop a new source of revenue. He said not just a profitable amount of gas that may be in there but in addition to that, the in kind contributions that they would receive from that such as the City using the gas because there is a high pressure gas line that goes through this. He said getting gas to the facilities in the City, heating City Hall, heating the Main Pavilion or whatever it may be such as the Fire Station. He said this was a vision but they continued to look at investigation after investigation and the question he has today is why their Controller who sat in meetings about this with their former Mayor and knew that they were trying to do this and why he would try to purchase this property before the City could get it. He said he doesn't have an answer for that and he doesn't know if he has an explanation but he can assure them that they knew nothing about it. He said it showed up later in the adaptation that was filed. He said he just can't figure this out. He said why must they continue the negativity. He said he is asking Mr. Malinchak to please for the sake of this City to just start working with them and start focusing on the City. He said his job description is very clear. He said his duties in the Charter are very clear and he thinks there are seven of them. He said he is not going to bore the crowd and read through them. He said he thinks they all read and understand them. He said these investigations and what not are very clear. He said yes he does have the authority to do an investigation and of course it is upon the majority action of City Council but he is just asking if they can quit the nonsense, the negativity and calling this business or that business on behalf of the City. He said the only person who reserves that right is himself or Mr. Gergely. He said the daily operations of the City go through them. He said it is only a matter of time before they get a lawsuit out there and he is looking out for this Council and everyone. He said he is calling this business

and saying he is Mr. Malinchak and is the City Controller and needs this or that and is looking into this or that. He said he doesn't know what it would be if it becomes impersonating a City Official or an Authoritative City Official that doesn't have the Authority ... he doesn't know what it would be but all he knows is it is really setting up the liability for a lawsuit. He said please if he wants to be the watchdog for the City please watch out for the City. He said let's not do the political investigations, the politically motivated this and that, but let's look out for the City. He said let's look out for the City. He said let's not go to a School Board hearing or to School Board meeting and sign in and encourage the School District to come after the City for taxes owed. He said why would he do that. He said he doesn't have all these answers nor does he want these answers. He said what he is asking is to please, please quit the negativity and the politically motivated agendas. He said this Council has stepped up to the plate. He said he is going to give him every bit of credit. He said it has not been easy and it is not all smooth as can be. He said he will make that very clear. He said Mr. Segina and he have had their differences but at the end of the day they are smiling and acknowledging each other and sometimes two days but they are.

- Mr. Segina said he believes it was two weeks.
- Mayor Cherepko said what he is asking is that let's start doing what we were elected to do. He said let's start governing this City and forget about the politics. He said instead of being the problem, let's be part of the solution. He said that is all he has this evening. He said he was extremely upset when he read this article. He said it is embarrassing. He said it makes the City look like a joke. He said he apologizes if he came across too hard but he read it in the morning but he was an angry protecting his house. He said that is all he wants to say and he is done talking about it and doesn't want to hear anything about the bond issue and

will get these numbers to them. He said Mr. Segina agrees to a certain extent about the rehashing of the old stuff. He said it is time to move on and let's govern. He said let's do what this City deserves and do what they were all elected to do what they were all elected to do. He said that concludes his report and he is open to any questions that Council may have.

- Mr. Segina said does anyone have any questions for the Mayor?
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said she has a question. She said it is not about this. She said a while ago they talked about a violence committee and she was trying to give a couple months to settle in and work that out. She said she wondered where he was with that.
- Mayor Cherepko said they are actually in the process where they have the violence committee and the business committee and they are looking to put both together. He said he is in the process of getting in touch ... he said they want to get anyone and everyone who wants to get involved with the violence issues they have. He said it is unbelievable the overwhelming amount of support in this community that wants to help at no cost. He said they don't want anything, they want to be involved and want to be a part of the solution. He said Fawn, he is on that and he would have liked to have had it done before this and it is something they are taking very seriously. He said he met with an individual today, he is an individual they may be voting on today, and they talked about some great opportunities for youth in the City. He said there is a wonderful significant amount of money that they are going to try to get through the City and collaborate with the School District. He said as they said they need to stop the violence in the community at its source and that is the youth. He said they will get that done.

- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said anything she can do to help with that, she would love to sit on that committee and just let her know.
- Mr. Segina said does anyone have any more questions for the Mayor.
- Mr. Tedesco said he wished Mr. Shermenti was here tonight. He said he doesn't know if the Mayor has been up in the Seventh Ward lately and looked at Spring Street. He said it is still owned by the City and if he has seen the mound of dirt sitting on it ... do they have any recourse for any damage being done.
- Mayor Cherepko said if there is damage done to it, obviously they will be responsible. He said they did not have authorization to do that. He said they need to know that and they did talk to them about that. He said to be honest with them, he is usually riding around more at night and he did not see it until later when there were piles upon piles upon piles of dirt. He said it was addressed. He said what it is is fill that they are going to be reusing to put back in the area. He said hopefully nothing comes out of that. He said he thinks that is something they need to discuss on Council down the line. He said he believes they are looking into taking that and he doesn't know what view Council has so they will talk about it. He said there are different views. He said it is something that needs to be handled whether it is with them or with the School District as far as Spring Street goes.
- Mr. Tedesco said since Dale is on the Sewage Authority Board, did they bypass the sewage lines on Spring? He said did they reroute that.
- Mr. McCall said he doesn't they that has been done yet.
- Mr. Tedesco said it is in the works, correct.

- Mr. McCall said he thinks it will have to be.
- Mayor Cherepko said it is still as of this summer ... because he knows years ago they did a study, and he is just using numbers given to them by Senate Engineering, it is still a significant amount of money ... millions of dollars ... a few million ... at least a million on the very low end. He said that is the number they got long ago. He said if Council wants to look into something, he will look into something else and they will go another direction and that is a decision they will have to make. He said he thinks that they don't want to get into that debate now. He said it is not even worth talking about at this point now. He said it is a decision they will all have to make together about what they have to do. He said he knows the school district is interested in taking it over and that liability would be off of their hands at that point. He said it is out of their hands at that point.
- Mr. Segina said he really believes and has been talking about Spring Street for many times at these Council meetings and he is not convinced that they are talking about millions of dollars to repair that street. He said he thinks now they have a new engineer and he would first like to stress the importance of that artery leading from the Seventh Ward down to the Third Ward with all the churches involved and the quick release down to Walnut Street. He said he thinks it is important enough even for emergency vehicles to be using that artery. He said he would like to see them get together. He said they have a fresh approach with a new engineer that they have in Mr. Garvin and he would like to get the KLH Engineers up there to meet all at once with the Mayor there and look at that street again and give his opinion on a few things he found out since he was Public Works Director and maybe they can come up with a better solution. He said the fact that even using the



Fifth Congressional District to come in as contractors for this to lessen the cost on this. He said maybe they can come up with something that they know now that they have figures to look at what needs to be done and specifications to correct that problem up there and try to get that open again. He said he doesn't think it is as serious as people think except for that sewer line and if that can be bypassed like they said they would do, he thinks they can fix that road pretty easily.

- Mayor Cherepko said that is something if that is what they want to do, they can have it looked into. He said Mr. Segina is definitely right as far the cheapest route is going Congressional like they did with the 12<sup>th</sup> down on Marshall Drive Extension project and the money they saved there. He said he thinks there are options that they can look at.
- Mr. Segina said they have milled asphalt out there in Renzie Park that they could use as backfill, which would take a lot of money out of the cost instead of using regular gravel and would give them a better base even. He said that is one of the things. He said if the Mayor could arrange a meeting, he would like to do that and meet with them. He said once the weather gets nice, they can get a good look at it and if the school put the debris up there then perhaps they can share some of the cost too. He said he thinks they have been very good to the school because they gave them the lower end of Bailey Avenue and the row of houses on the other side. He said he thinks in kind they should be helping them too. He said on second thought, he welcomes the remarks as far as an open door to him in those matters. He said they do have a list of things they have been talking about and he has addressed some of them and he would ask Mr. Malinchak, the Mayor, Mr. Gergely to meet and he would be glad to intervene. He said he will bring his striped shirt and a

small caliber pistol and he thinks they can sit down and mediate some of these problems they have. He said after all they all work for the City of McKeesport and there are going to be differences after they all leave but at least they will be on the same note as far as improving this town and maybe eradicating some of the problems that they have had. He said the Mayor says investigations and watchdogging. He said he will be calling each one of them and they will set up a meeting. He said is that okay with Mr. Malinchak.

- Mr. Malinchak said that is fine.
- Mr. Segina said is that okay with you Mayor.
- Mayor Cherepko said absolutely.
- Mr. Segina said is that okay with you Mr. Gergely.
- Mr. Gergely said definitely.
- Mr. Segina said they will participate and try to work together on this and try to resolve it to the best of their abilities. He said he thinks there will still be some animosity after they are done but he does hope they leave the room and can shake hands and try to go forward with this community as they all pledged to do.
- Mayor Cherepko said before Mr. Segina goes on he does have the last thing. He said they did two of the three appointments that were submitted to them. He said the other was the Municipal Authority of the City of McKeesport. He said he just got the information and he did not intend on doing it at this meeting. He said the name he has that he is submitting is Ryan Sturgess. He said Ryan is an educator in McKeesport Area School District and has been a teacher for well over ten years and a coach for about all of those years. He said Ryan is involved in the community. He said that is the name

he is submitting and is asking for a motion to approve for the Municipal Authority of the City of McKeesport.

- Mr. Segina said he is asking for a motion to approve. He said there is a procedure for doing this. He said the proper procedure is for the Mayor to bring that person into be interviewed so they all have a chance to interview him and ask him questions and then after that make their decision out here on the podium. He said in lieu of that though he thinks a lot of them do know Ryan Sturgess and know his qualities and they are all good qualities. He said he is saying this so everyone knows that in case someone was brought in that they don't know they would like to know more about them and if he is adaptable to the different commissions and authorities they have.
- Mayor Cherepko said they will have a notice from this time forward.
- Mr. Segina said that is not a problem but they are just talking about it.

**MOTION:**      **Mr. McCall moved, seconded by Mr. Dellapenna, "To appoint Ryan Sturgess to the Municipal Authority of the City of McKeesport."**

**RC-6**      YEAS:      SEGINA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY,  
TEDESCO, SOLES, DELLAPENNA, CARR ..... 7

NAYS:      NONE..... 0

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

- Mr. Tedesco said first he wants to send his condolences to the Coulter family. He said Ed Coulter was certainly a staple in McKeesport politics for a long time. He said he wants to thank the Mayor's Department Heads, Chief Washowich, Chief Lust and Mr. Shermenti for their written Department Head Reports. He said they were excellent once again and very informative and it seems to be working out pretty good. He said he is learning a lot and more than they would have if they spoke at the meetings. He said he wanted to give a notice that the Allegheny County Police and the Allegheny County Sheriff Department is having their Camp Cadet Program again this year. He said it is free to any Allegheny County residents, boys and girls, ages 12 – 14. He said it is a mini-police academy. He said if anyone is interested in it they have a website and it is [www.alleghenycountycampcadet.org](http://www.alleghenycountycampcadet.org). He said it is probably a nice experience for these kids. He said last night they spoke and he made the comment that he thought they should invest in their new City Administrator by sending him to some grant writing classes and things like that. He said Matt is in luck. He said he looked it up and actually there are a couple of classes in April at CCAC where he could probably make four of the five. He said it would only take up two of his Saturdays and they are only \$65 a class so it will not be a big burden to the City to send him. He said he does believe they should invest in a young man that is going to be working for this City. He said he might even take the course with him. He said finally ... not just recently but since he has been on Council ... there have been many instances that they have gotten into debates heated and otherwise regarding what the Home Rule Charter stipulates. He said he has to give a nod to Councilman McCall because he brought this up last year that maybe they need to revisit some of these passages in the Home Rule Charter to get some clarity and resolution. He said there seems to be all these conflicts with

the Home Rule Charter and the Third Class City Code and things of this sort. He said he would like to ask the President if they could get some sort of group together to discuss this and try to come up with a resolution to this matter that they keep running into.

- Mr. Segina said way to go A.J. He said he thinks the Home Rule Charter is in need of an overhaul, there is no doubt about that and he said it before. He said in fact every one of the Administrative Code, the Personnel Policy should all be overhauled as well. He said he doesn't want to bite off more than they can chew. He said as far as the Home Rule Charter, he would like to have that done and he thinks it is an urgent matter that they do it. He said he thinks some of the language is so ambiguous. He said Joe Bendel had this done in 1975 and it was adopted by the people. He said any changes they make will have to go for referendum and be voted on by the people as to the changes that occur. He said they have a constant battle of flux in fact even today on the terms of the Home Rule Charter. He said he would like to start off with that. He said he will put Mr. Tedesco on that committee. He said he doesn't know who else would like to be on that Committee or if all six would like to be on it.
- Mayor Cherepko said if everyone wanted to be one the committee then it could go back to what they were talking about before. He said if it is something they so choose, they can have a public meeting and it doesn't have to be a voting meeting but they can have a meeting anytime they want.
- Mr. Segina said he would like to have at least four members of Council on that committee and he would like to have three residents on there also. He said he would like three prominent residents to come in there and go over that. He said he thinks Mr. Elash will be

their advisor on that so he can guide them through anything they may not be able to do or things they can or cannot do. He said who else would like to be on it.

- Mr. McCall said he would.
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said she would.
- Mr. Dellapenna said he would.
- Mr. Segina said they have four people and he said he wants the four of them to come back to him with three citizens at the next meeting, they will appoint them officially and have them brought in here, the Mayor will swear them in, they will then start their agenda and have their meetings. He said they can report back to them in one year. He said this is a tedious task to say the least. He said he will ask them to bear with them as they do this. He said it is an important step and after that they will attack the other ones.
- Mr. McCall said he would like to comment on this.
- Mr. Segina said only if it is positive.
- Mr. McCall said he is not going to bring his gun to any of these meetings. He said the thing about the Home Rule Charter is that it is very tedious to do. He said when they sit down and do this, they will have to go step by step. He said the easiest way to do things is to take one or two items first and get those in order and see how they are doing and then present that to the public. He said they should not come out with a whole new Charter with a whole lot for them to encompass in the booth. He said if they remember when he did the personnel committee. He said it took them at least three months to sit down just to get that so that clear enough so people could read it ... and it has to go before the election board at the County and all of that stuff. He said it did pass and it was something that they put in

there that did not exist in the Charter originally at the time.

- Mr. Segina said did they originally formulate it.
- Mr. McCall said in the original Home Rule Charter there was no Personnel Committee.
- Mr. Segina said Personnel Committee.
- Mr. Elash said the Personnel Committee was a Charter Amendment.
- Mr. Segina said yes, it became part of the Charter as a law as did the Administrative Code.
- Mr. McCall said so when they put this together, they have to realize that when they put this Charter together, they have to look at areas in the Charter itself that they need to address today because they are always coming back and saying the Charter says this ... and it is always on the same issues. He said it is always about the same issues.
- Mr. Segina said he thinks what he is telling them is something that the committee should decipher themselves as to what their approach is. He said since Mr. Tedesco initiated this conversation, he is going to make him chairman of the committee and he can bring the four people together and bring the other three that they feel should be on the committee too and they can go from there. He said whatever their approach is, he thinks they should form all their ideas and if there are any changes they want to make, they should approach Mr. Elash and find out what the limits of the law are with respect to the City of McKeesport.
- Mr. Tedesco said thank you.
- Mr. Segina said will he take on that challenge.

- Mr. Tedesco said he will and that is all he has.
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said she wanted to also give her condolences to Ed Coulter's family as well. She said she wanted to thank the Council President as well as the Council members for discussing the idea she has about the Council Subcommittees. She said she will work on getting together the functions, rules, structure, purpose and mission statement. She said she will meet with the Council President about that and communicate with them via email and bring a resolution for that to the April meeting. She said she wants to let everyone know that she did participate in the Newly Elected Officials Course through the Local Government Academy. She said she is not newly elected but she figured it would be a good course for her to learn and be a better Council person. She said the graduation is on Thursday, March 22, so anyone who wants to come out for that, she put it in everyone's packet. She said something that she wants to work on in the future after she finishes the resolution on the subcommittees, is that she wants Council to have a Council retreat. She said she thinks they should get together and have team building activities.
- Mr. Segina said is she saying a retreat.
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said yes, she is saying retreat.
- Mr. Segina said is she sponsoring this.
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said yes, she will do it.
- Mayor Cherepko said if that is just Council, does that mean he can just sit back and enjoy.
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said it would be a Mayor and Council retreat. She said that is all she has.
- Mr. Dellapenna said he would just like to reiterate what everyone is saying and offer his condolences to Mr. Coulter and his family. He said also he has been approached by a lot



of people in his neighborhood and up on the Sumac Street area. He said there are a lot of dilapidated houses, homes that are basically collapsing. He said there also seems to be a bad rodent problem there also. He said he actually went up there and witnessed it. He said there are rats coming out of these homes that are the size of small dogs. He said he doesn't know who to address.

- Mayor Cherepko said when they have that they have someone who goes up with a cage and bait and things like that. He said as far as the homes, he is exactly right. He said they have been trying to get a grasp on things and he is riding around every opportunity he gets and that area is really bad. He said the big thing they need to know. He said they run into problems where there are areas of McKeesport that sometimes there are 3, 4 or 5 houses on a block that need to be torn down. He said some of the changes in the law are most likely going to prevent them from tearing down multiple houses at one time on a block. He said then they get into a problem with asbestos problems if they tear down more than one home on a block. He said it can raise the cost of tearing the houses from \$7,000 each to upwards of \$30,000 each. He said he is right there are a lot of houses up there. He said he was actually up there not long ago. He said there are a couple right on Sumac.
- Mr. Dellapenna said it looks like it is going to collapse right into the street.
- Mayor Cherepko said 1501 is going straight down and there is a lot ... he said Rich is right ... he went down and he didn't know where to go.
- Mr. Dellapenna said there seems to be a bad rodent problem coming out of those houses.

- Mayor Cherepko said the rodent problem .... He said what is that address.
- Mr. Dellapenna said he thinks it is 1501.
- Mayor Cherepko said he said that is where ....
- Mr. Dellapenna said it is actually 1500.
- Mayor Cherepko said 1500, that is it, the one on the right hand side.
- Mr. Soles said he attended his first Joint Task Force meeting last month at the Viking Lounge. He said they meet the first Tuesday after the Council Meeting. He said many of the people here attend and they had a gentleman who came to speak from the Sheriff's office for about one and a half hours. He said it was very informative and he would encourage people to go to those meetings. He said secondly he would like everybody in the audience to know that this is his first time on Council of course. He said he thinks they have a Council and a Mayor and Administrator that are truly working together, communicating all the time. He said he has talked to other elected officials and they did not do this in the past. He said a lot of people know that he plays ball with Mike on Tuesday nights and they play on the same team. He said they are both very competitive. He said he is a team player and he will give him as he will give this City 1000%. He said he just wanted to thank Mike.
- Mr. Carr said he has nothing to report except that he would like to express his condolences also to Mr. Coulter. He said fortunately he was able to work with him closely the last three months and developed a deep respect for the man. He said he is sure he will treasure that for the rest of his life.
- Mr. McCall said he would also like to give his condolences to the family. He said he lost a good friend and a mentor just as Mike did. He said he has known Ed Coulter for probably the last 25 years and he has always kept him straight on

things. He said he will be deeply missed here in the City. He said the reports that he received from Mr. Washowich and Mr. Lust ... he thinks that Kevin learned how to do that from Mr. Washowich. He said he was looking for Kevin's stick figures. He said he figured they were coming.

- Chief Lust said he was not lying, he told him he was waiting for the computer.
- Mr. McCall said the reports were very detailed and he thinks they are what they needed. He said one more thing. He said are they getting gas from the gas wells. He said they have gas don't they.
- Mayor Cherepko said he does want to commend some of the residents ... and surprisingly they actually went to Haler Heights and did not realize it when the well went in. He said some may have noticed the well when they were drilling right off of Eden Park Boulevard, which is the property they were talking about earlier. He said there was some noise and the residents because there were no leaves on the trees, and they did get some calls but they did bear with them and at this point it is now a well and there is some surface gas that was found. He said they are not sure how profitable it will be because it was not Marcellus but only surface drilling about 3600 – 3700 feet down. He said there is an opportunity there for the City and if the City were to ever look into Marcellus and other drilling that this well would be a candidate to do that. He said there are no guarantees when they go down any further but it would definitely be a candidate to do it. He said that is where they are with that.
- Mr. Segina said he doesn't have a report but he is on the Salvation Army Board of Advisors and Captain Barton is here this evening and said their prayers for them. He said he just wanted to say that he will be there at more meetings. He said sometimes they take things for granted and that

Salvation Army does so much for so many poor and needy people down there. He said God Bless them for all the work that they do. He said it requires many volunteers. He said if they ever go down there at Christmas time, the whole gym floor is covered with toys and they are serving over 300 families.

- Captain Barton said there were 544 families and 1644 people.
- Mr. Segina said it is a vast amount of people that they service and try to make their holidays cheery. He said that doesn't start just at Christmas. He said it is a year round venture. He said there are so many programs down there so he tips his hat to Captain Barton for a well run Salvation Army and all the hard work he and his wife do. He said that is going to conclude his remarks and no one needs to say thank you.

### **CITIZENS IN THE AUDIENCE:**

- **JOSEPH DONATO, 2314 OLYMPIA STREET, McKEESPORT, PA.** Mr. Donato said he is an officer of the McKeesport Baseball Association and this is his 44<sup>th</sup> year of doing this and he is down here seeking help on a couple of the prominent fields that they play on in the City one of them being the Duncan Field which is in really bad shape. He said in the recent fields down there, the field is just worn down and if you walk in from the outfield grass, the infield sits about three inches lower than the grass coming in. He said the bench areas in first base, the two end pillars holding up the bench are completely rotted through and you can just run your hand through it. He said the fences are turned up around first base where the prongs are reaching out. He said if a kid overthrows first base it will go under the fence. He said they are also in a travel league now and there are teams coming in from out of town. He said these other teams have

a lot of control of their fields whereas they can't do anything to their fields. He said there is a pot on the first base side that is eight inches deep and fills up with water. He said actually he knows he shouldn't be doing this but he goes down there with a broom and sweeps it out so the kids don't have to dangle their feet in water. He said the field has been used by them forever. He said he knows it is not in Renzie Park and doesn't get the attention that some of the other fields get but they need help on that field. He said it is probably as bad as it has ever been right now. He said Heatherington Field in the Park there is a problem at the backstop on the third base side also. He said the hill is slowly eroding away into the backstop. He said one of these days they are going to have one of these situations here. He said he knows they have those big rocks in wire cages to reinforce that hill. He said the thing is that they are in a traveling league now and honestly they start the season April 23 and that tells him he has to be on the field a month before that which makes it March 23. He said he is talking about a couple of weeks away from trying to get on those fields. He said when that new project was done in there with RAD money and everything else it was great for the first few years but they do need attention. He said he understands and sees the town worker going on the middle field. He said Mike played there and Matt played and coached and Dale's boys played. He said they need to work together to get those fields together. He said right now they are at the point where they really need work. He said he understands the City's situation, but they have these other teams coming in here and there are some liability problems there and if someone comes in and gets hurt from another town, they are not going to hesitate to come back.

- Mr. Segina said most of the problems that Mr. Donato is identifying now, and he is familiar with both fields, are labor intensive and don't require a lot of money. He said they will have to put some more dirt up there and he is not talking about dirt but loam like he used to get

up in Newcastle. He said there is a drainage ditch up above Heatherington Field on the other side of the roadway and that has probably not been cleaned in years. He said they probably could dredge it out and it will not hold around the backstop any more. He said Toots has not started doing the fields yet and they need at least another week of good dry weather to get out there. He said it doesn't take long to do those fields but he can handle that. He said he is sure the Mayor can coordinate those efforts.

- Mayor Cherepko said no question ... Mr. Donato called him earlier and he did not forget about him. He said he went down to the field and he is not exaggerating. He said Duncan Field is in bad shape. He said they are going to have to go down there and get it in order. He said this really isn't in their budget but they want the fields to be a little more of a priority. He said like Mr. Segina said, it is labor intensive and they will do these things and as a matter of fact, they were talking about grant opportunity and because of what he brought to his attention, there is a grant available that if they were to get this grant, they are actually planned on putting all the money into Duncan Field.
- Mr. Segina said Fawcett Field is also bad. He said he has not been out there but every year they have had to go out and do some work. He said he would also like to recommend to the Mayor that they apply for more money from RAD. He said usually they go in there and ask for \$80,000 and pick out a project. He said he thinks it is their turn in front of a lot of other non-profits with money. He said he thinks it is McKeesport's turn to get their fair share and proceed with helping develop these fields better. He said they have not been touched for a long time.

- Mayor Cherepko said just to assure Council, this conversation has taken place with Mr. Shermenti, they have had that dugout at Jimmy Long where the wall has been down for at least five or six years now, so these are issues they are going to address. He said of course they are held to a certain extent with the money but they are going to do what they can and in the future it is going to be more of a priority and they are going to look for as many grants as they can. He said they have a lot of ... once again it is their youth ... and they have a lot of young boys and girls that are on these fields. He said some people don't realize that it becomes a safety issue at times. He said not just with the fence and bench but even the fields themselves. He said if those fields get in bad condition then the ball comes up ... he said that is part of the game but when it is because of the field, that is unacceptable.
- Mr. Donato said he just wanted to tell them one thing and that is that his baselines are sixty (60') feet and at second base, sixty (60') feet geometrically from home plate should be eighty-two feet ten inches (82'10") and they would be almost three feet in the grass. He said they need a radius feet of almost ten feet deeper on Duncan and Heatherington too. He said he cannot teach a kid to play in the hole, deep at second and short, because they are in four feet of grass.
- Mr. Segina said he would think that Mr. Donato would put something in writing so that they could give that to the foreman and then he could rake it out with a backhoe.
- Mayor Cherepko said hopefully if the weather continues to cooperate with them, it would be nice to get out there and get this done.
- Mr. Segina said they can then drag it with a backhoe and then chill it and put some new loam down there and

it will take care of it. He said the fence itself, all they need is the cable wire and put it down in the bottom and stretch it tight and it will pop out.

- Mr. Donato said anything they can do he would greatly appreciate. He said it has just gotten to the point that they have overused that field.
- Mr. Segina said they have gotten his point and he thanks him for attending.
- Mr. Donato said thank you gentlemen.
- **BETTY JEAN MARCONI, 310 30<sup>TH</sup> STREET, McKEESPORT, PA 15132.** Ms. Marconi said thank you for this opportunity to be here tonight. She said since they are talking about safety, playgrounds and play areas, she had prepared to present an initiative on behalf of McKeesport Healthier Communities PartnerSHIP for which she is a Co-Facilitator, and also an initiative that was started by Penn State, Tobacco-Free Allegheny, several years ago about Smoke-Free Playgrounds. She said she understands that there is more legwork that needs to be worked out to come up with a good proposal and an ordinance. She said what she wants to talk about tonight is from a parent and grandparent standpoint. She said she has to say that years ago when she was a young mother bringing her daughter into the City playgrounds and seeing the cigarettes and smoking and parents pushing their kids on the swings with a cigarette dangling within inches of the child's head, and the first time she saw her daughter pick up a cigarette butt and pretend to smoke it she was about 3 years old, it saddened her. She said recently when she had her granddaughter at a City playground, a young father was pushing his son on a swing and his cigarette ashes were all around the child as the wind blew and they were going everywhere. She said cigarette smoking ... she is not telling them to quit smoking but is saying that the play area should be safe and that the cigarette butts do present a problem to children. She said it



is also a problem to wildlife. She said animals and birds think they are food and sometimes they go to a playground and it looks like a bag of cheetos were dumped out on the ground and it is a lump of cigarette butts. She said cigarette butts do not biodegrade. She said they get into the watershed, they are poisonous to plants and kill them because it clogs the lungs on the plants. She said even if they are outside, if they are within three feet of a smoker, it is the same thing as being in a room of a smoker.

- Mr. Segina said he thinks that Ms. Marconi has made her point and he concurs. He said he thinks the rest of Council would concur too. He said he doesn't know of any ordinance that they have for smoke free playgrounds but said would Mr. Elash research that and present that to City Council so that they could vote on that particular one. He said then if they do approve it they could put out the appropriate signs for that.
- Mr. Elash said he has met with Mr. Carr twice on this and he thinks the group has already approached him and they have begun working on it and trying to hash something out.
- Mr. Segina said very good.
- Ms. Marconi said there are signs that are available at no cost through Tobacco-free Allegheny at Penn State. She said they are here to help too through the McKeesport Healthier Communities PartnerSHIP. She said they have McKeesport residents also that would be willing to work on any committees or backgrounds or legwork.
- Mr. Segina said does Mr. Carr have her name and address.
- Mr. Carr said he does.

- Mr. Segina said he will proceed with that also in conjunction with Mr. Elash. He said thank you for the signs if they do get them.
- Mr. Segina said the next two speakers are speaking on the same Church and he thinks one of these items will be taken care of very quickly and he will bring that particular gentleman up first.
- **DONALD C. MARTIN, 628 HAZEL STREET, WEST MIFFLIN, PA 15122.** Mr. Martin said he is an Ordained Deacon at Zion Baptist Church that is located at 1300 Locust Avenue. He said he is here this evening ... the last time he was here was during Mayor Brewster's administration and he is still talking about the same thing. He said the curbing and the streets need to be repaired in front of Zion Baptist Church. He said Mayor Brewster gave them a ramp in front of the Church, which is excellent, and they use it and it is good but the curbing close to the street presents a hazard because they have elderly people and members of the church who try to get across this high curb. He said the streets get lower and lower each year.
  - Mr. Segina said are they limestone.
  - Mr. Martin said yes. He said there are two springs that run under Thirteenth Street and one time it was supposed to be repaired but it has not been repaired. He said he would like to know what City Council plans to do about this.
  - Mr. Segina said he is going to talk to the Mayor about it.
  - Mayor Cherepko said that is something....
  - Mr. Segina said this again is labor intensive because there is a brick street and limestone curbs ... he hopes Mike doesn't mind him talking like this but he is familiar with the area ... the limestone curbs have to be pulled out and dug out underneath and dropped back to the

grade of the sidewalk itself. He said the brick streets, he doesn't know what he is going to do. He said the quickest thing is to pull the bricks out, then asphalt where the bricks were to level it off. He said that is the quickest and probably the best way to do it because they are limited with men there too. He said if they can get maybe Mr. Shermenti or whoever is in charge of that department, they can look into it and he thinks it is because now they are going to have a bazaar up there or a celebration up there.

- Mr. Martin said yes and the Pastor is here and he wants to talk about that. He said what he is trying to say here is that as soon as that curbing is fixed, they will go ahead and put the sidewalk in. He said from 13<sup>th</sup> Street from the other side of the ramp up to the other edge of their property in. He said they are going to put new sidewalks in there and they can't do that until the curbing gets fixed.
- Mr. Segina said it is not a difficult thing to do but pulling those curbs out and getting the grade is the hard part but that can be achieved very easily and then putting the asphalt instead of the brick if that is okay with him ... but people don't like to see the brick removed. He said it would be the quickest answer and the least expensive way to go on that. He said they can't do anything with the springs, they are going to be there no matter what and they constantly have to pay attention to them as the springs erode it.
- **REVEREND CRAWFORD JAMES, 710 MILLER AVENUE, CLAIRTON, PA.** Reverend James is the pastor of Zion Baptist Church located at 1300 Locust Street. He said he is approaching Council this evening to ask for the blockage of Locust Street from the 1200 Block to the 1300 Block for a Gospel Fest that they are planning to have with a conglomerate of churches in a grouping called the AUBA,

which is the Allegheny Union Baptist Association. He said this is the second such event that they are having. He said last year it was held in the Duquesne area and this year it was requested to be held in this area. He said there were roughly 122 – 126 churches that are involved in this conglomerate. He said all churches will not be there but they are inviting those that they associate with to this event. He said this event will be held on June 30, which is the last Saturday in June, and they are requesting the blockage of that street from the 1200 block to the 1300 block because from the 1300 block it is a dead end and closes off. He said there are also residents in that area and they cannot block them off from getting to the City if they need to. He said however that 1200 and 1300 block is vacant although there is one resident there with no vehicle. He said everything else is vacant.

- Mr. Segina said that is the easy one they have here. He said June 30 is when they are going to have their bazaar so they have some time to do that repair on the street and the Chief is the person he will have to see. He said he can see him later on here or should they have him come to his office.
- Reverend James said the sooner the better. He said they are actually having their second planning meeting next Tuesday which is the 13<sup>th</sup> and if it is at all possible, it would be at 1:00 at the church and he would greatly appreciate his presence because they anticipate speaking with the City authorities or any kind of policing that they need and invite the public, the police, firemen, or anyone who desires to come out and be part of this.
- Mayor Cherepko said when was that meeting.
- Reverend James said next Tuesday, March 13 at 1:00 p.m. at 1300 Locust, Zion Baptist Church.

- Mr. Segina said thank you for coming tonight and he is sure that is an easy solution for the Chief and they will accommodate him so he will have a success outing there.
- Reverend James said thank you very much, he appreciates that.
- Mr. Segina said that concludes the Citizens in the Audience portion of the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ORDINANCE #12-3 – BILL #13: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT PREVIOUSLY EFFECTIVE AND AMENDED BY ORDINANCE FROM TIME TO TIME, RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT PENSION PLAN, INSURANCE AND BENEFIT FUND OR FUNDS, TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE PENSION PLAN OR PROGRAM APPLICABLE TO THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF SAID CITY.**

**MOTION: Mr. Tedesco moved, seconded by Ms. Walker-Montgomery, "To adopt Bill #13."**

**COMMENTS:**

- Mr. Segina said the only comment he has is that these two bills are relatively routine types of Bills, #13 and #14. He said every once in a while they have these revisions on the Agenda and it doesn't affect the City at all except that they change the language. He said if there are no other questions or comments, let's have roll call.

**RC-7** YEAS: SEGINA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY,  
TEDESCO, SOLES, DELLAPENNA, CARR ..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

**ORDINANCE #12-4 – BILL #14: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 6, 1956, AND AS AMENDED, REPEALED OR OTHERWISE REVISED BY ORDINANCE FROM TIME TO TIME, RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF CITY EMPLOYEES PENSION, ANNUITY, INSURANCE AND BENEFIT FUND OR FUNDS, TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE PENSION PLAN OR PROGRAM APPLICABLE TO THE POLICE EMPLOYEES OF SAID CITY AND TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF SUCH PENSION PLAN OR PROGRAM.**

**MOTION: Mr. Tedesco moved, seconded by Mr. McCall, "To adopt Bill #14."**

**RC-8** YEAS: SEGINA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY,  
TEDESCO, SOLES, DELLAPENNA, CARR ..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

**ORDINANCE #12-5 – BILL #15: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING A UNIFORM AND CONSTANT POLICY FOR THE LEASING OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY AND RENTAL SPACE.**

**MOTION: Mr. Tedesco moved, seconded by Mr. Dellapenna, "To adopt Bill #15."**

**COMMENTS:**

- Mr. Tedesco said he just wants to comment that this was actually something that he had some reservations about the language in this but due to some good communication yesterday, it is something that he is going to approve now.

**RC-9** YEAS: SEGINA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY,  
TEDESCO, SOLES, DELLAPENNA, CARR ..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

**RESOLUTION #2012-11 – BILL #16: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY HAZARD VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION PLAN AS AN OFFICIAL PLAN OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT.**

**MOTION:** Mr. Tedesco moved, seconded by Mr. Soles, "To adopt Bill #16."

**RC-10** YEAS: SEGINA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY,  
TEDESCO, SOLES, DELLAPENNA, CARR ..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

- Mr. Segina said he believes Mr. Coulter was the one who did this particular resolution and did all the hard work on it and presented it to them. He said it was one of his final acts for the City.
- Mayor Cherepko said that will be his final act on behalf of the City of McKeesport.

**RESOLUTION #2012-12 – BILL #17: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AUTHORIZING THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF DUQUESNE, TO FILE AN**

**APPLICATION TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR  
ENTERPRISE ZONE DESIGNATION AND FUNDING ON  
BEHALF OF THE CITIES OF CLAIRTON, DUQUESNE AND  
McKEESPORT.**

**MOTION:**        **Mr. Tedesco moved, seconded by Mr. Carr,  
"To adopt Bill #17."**

**COMMENTS:**

- Mr. Segina said the Enterprise Zone used to just be on the Tube City site but is now to help business who come to the City and lend assistance any way they can whether it is with management or with loans. He said it is very important to this town because the Enterprise Zone now has been expanded over a lot of the City. He said it is important that they have this available to them because it is an asset. He said he hopes they get a chance to utilize it because that means they have people coming in here with jobs.

**RC-11**    YEAS:        SEGINA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY,  
                                 TEDESCO, SOLES, DELLAPENNA, CARR ..... 7

                 NAYS:        NONE..... 0

**RESOLUTION #2012-13 – BILL #18: A RESOLUTION OF  
THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY,  
PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY  
OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH  
ZAMBELLI FIREWORKS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION  
FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING THE FIREWORKS  
DISPLAY AT RENZIEHAUSEN PARK FOR THE SUMMER  
CARNIVAL ON JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup>, THE JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> FIREWORKS  
DISPLAY, THE AUGUST 16<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE  
FIREWORKS DISPLAY AND THE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES  
FIREWORKS DISPLAY ON SEPTEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> IN THE TOTAL  
AMOUNT OF \$21,000.00.**



**RC-12** YEAS: SEGINA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY,  
TEDESCO, SOLES, DELLAPENNA, CARR ..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

**RC-13** YEAS: SEGINA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY,  
TEDESCO, SOLES, DELLAPENNA, CARR ..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

- Mr. Segina said on this particular Bill he talked to Mayor Cherepko about it and they talked about making a bid on this. He said wisely the Mayor told him that if they go out to bid they might get a higher amount than it is because of the increased costs they have ensued since their original

contract, which was about 5 or 6 years ago. He said normally he would ask for competitive bids to be put out on this particular but silence is golden because they are saving money so they will just go like it is and have roll call.

**RC-14** YEAS: SEGINA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY,  
TEDESCO, SOLES, DELLAPENNA, CARR ..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

**RESOLUTION #2012-16 – BILL #21: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE THE ATTACHED AGREEMENT WITH KEINO FITZPATRICK TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE CITY AS SPECIAL GRANT ADMINISTRATOR.**

**MOTION:** Ms. Walker-Montgomery moved, seconded by Mr. Soles, "To adopt Bill #21."

**COMMENTS:**

- Mr. Segina said is the Mayor going to give them the opportunity to meet this person.
- Mayor Cherepko said yes, they already scheduled him to come to the work session before next month's meeting so they have an opportunity to meet him.

**RC-15** YEAS: SEGINA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY,  
TEDESCO, SOLES, DELLAPENNA, CARR ..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

**RESOLUTION #2012-17 – BILL #22: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO**

**MOTION:** Mr. McCall moved, seconded by Mr. Dellapenna, "To adopt Bill #22."

- Mr. Segina said of course he has a comment. He said the Mayor and he have been discussing this program and he thinks it is a good thing for the City because the contract they have going there they will be able to expand the amount of goods they will be accepting for recycling such as plastic and brown bottles. He said this will increase the amount of recycling that they take to the recycling plant and then if they do pick up more they then lower the landfill fees. He said it is up to the citizenry now to participate in recycling. He said it is not difficult. He said he has been doing it ever since they started back in 1991 and they are doing a great service to the City if they do participate and also something for the environment. He said he is asking each of them to try and get ... if they don't have bins, contact Mr. Shermenti's office and they will get bins out to them and they can start to participate. He said they might have to get new bins because of the new process they have going on with this, right Mr. Mayor.
- Mayor Cherepko said that is correct.

**RC-16** YEAS: SEGINA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY,  
TEDESCO, SOLES, DELLAPENNA, CARR ..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

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**MOTION:**        **Mr. Dellapenna moved, seconded by Ms. Walker-Montgomery, "To adopt Bill #23."**

**RC-17**    YEAS:        SEGINA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY,  
                                 TEDESCO, SOLES, DELLAPENNA, CARR ..... 7

                 NAYS:        NONE..... 0

**BILL #24:**   **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE FEE AGREEMENT FOR J. JASON ELASH, ESQ. AS CITY SOLICITOR.**

**MOTION:**        **Mr. McCall moved, seconded by Mr. Carr, "To table Bill #24."**

**COMMENTS:**

- Mr. Segina said any questions or comments. He said of course he does. He said this particular Bill is very important to the City of McKeesport. He said there has been a lot of discussion within Council Chambers and within the Administration because of recent incidents. He said he also thinks it has been sensationalized to the point where in a small town like this he thinks they have nothing else to talk about. He said there have been misconceptions and some truths. He said he thinks the only person now who is hurting ... there is not a victim except Mr. Elash himself. He said he regrets to see that. He said Mr. Elash will face the music on that and whatever happens, happens. He said he just wants them to know out there that they did their due diligence. He said for two weeks his phone was just about glued to his ear and Mayor Cherepko and he went round and round. He said he means round and round almost physically although he is bigger than him. He said the Council went back and forth on their decisions on this and at the end he decided to convene everyone to Executive Session. He said it is their duty to remove the emotions from Bills as important as this to get

down to bare tacks and come to a sensible conclusion and a resolution that is amicable to everybody. He said he thinks they have done that and they have tempered a lot of the feelings that have been shown during this time and they will continued to work on this as it has been tabled because they are going to have another agreement drawn up ... that is what this Council decided to do with the affirmation of both Mr. Elash and Mr. Cherepko so that when everything is done they can push it aside and get back to governing this City again without acrimony. He said they are not here to defend Mr. Elash but they are not here to vilify him either. He said he thinks it is time ... he is just about worn out as far as some of the other people they have told him the same thing. He said they are going to put it behind them. He said if Mr. Elash has anything he wants to add to what he said, feel free to do that now but if he doesn't that will be fine. He said he does not. He said they are now down to ... he said they did vote on that didn't they. He said roll call please.

**RC-18**    YEAS:        SEGINA, McCALL, SOLES, DELLAPENNA,  
                                 CARR ..... 5

              NAYS:        WALKER-MONTGOMERY, TEDESCO ..... 2

### **CONTROLLER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Malinchak said he has one statement before they move on. He said it is interesting that ... it may be of interest to Council that for the first two months of this year, the garbage collection averaged under 850 tons which is substantially less than previous years but maybe two months do not make a trend. He said the other item he has is that he would like to recommend the approval of bills that amount to \$83,133.57.

Mr. Segina said that is pretty substantial and he hopes they find the money for that.

**RC-19** YEAS: SEGINA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY,  
TEDESCO, SOLES, DELLAPENNA, CARR ..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

President of Council Darryl Segina adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Williams  
City Clerk and Clerk of Council

APPROVED:

Darryl Segina  
President of Council

daw